

From: pierre.i@att.net@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 3:49pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I am writing with regards to the proposed settlement of the Microsoft antitrust case. I've used Microsoft's Internet Explorer & Netscape's browser for many years; each has its own advantages & disadvantages, that is why I use both for different purposes. As a consumer, I have the ability to decide for myself which product suits me best - I am not a helpless victim & I don't want your help. I have been & continue to be appalled by the fact that the "Justice Dept" has intruded into the sphere of private business transactions at the behest of its unsuccessful competitors. A dangerous precedent is set whenever any business enlists the help of the government (which is ultimately backed by physical force) to stifle their competitors instead of competing in the realm of the free market.

It is completely irrelevant whether Microsoft bundles its browser with Windows - it is their product, their property. They are guilty of no fraud or physical force - if the consumer doesn't like Internet Explorer or the Windows operating system for that matter, there are many alternatives available on the market.

The application of antitrust laws against successful businesses can only lead to continued corruption (i.e. congressman demanding "protection money") and economic disaster as shown in many other countries.

Unfortunately America has strayed far from its original charter. Hard work & success is no longer lauded, but punished at the altar of "fairness". If the "Justice Dept" has its way, it won't be long before Microsoft is further punished for being a successful company & therefore having the resources to hire the best software programmers. After all, in the twisted logic which passes for today's "fairness" doctrine, isn't it unfair that a smaller company can't afford to offer the same compensation package as Microsoft?

Sincerely,
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